

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action dated March 12, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and the comments that follow reconsideration and allowance are respectively requested.

Claims 1-23 are pending, claims 1, 7, 20 having been amended.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action of March 12, 2003, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as failing to set forth the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. In particular, the Office Action asserts that the preamble identifies the invention as a system, and the system is claimed as being made up of "a plurality of business partners" and a processing center. The Office Action then asserts that a system cannot be made up of "a plurality of business partners," but rather can connect to a plurality of business partners.

In response, claim 1 has been amended so that the preamble recites that the system is connected to a plurality of business partners. Applicant submits that this amendment is sufficient to overcome the rejection rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-12, 14, and 16-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DeLorme et al.

DeLorme is directed to a travel reservation information and planning system. According to DeLorme, a user accesses the TRIPS system, and custom designs a travel route and/or plans. The user can select the route, transportation, waypoints and points of interest. The Delorme system can take reservations for lodging, restaurants, cultural events, sporting events, theme parks, tours, recreational, and other types of reservations.

Unlike the present claimed invention, the DeLorme patent teaches only that the user creates his/her entire travel itinerary through the system, and then receives a confirmation. The confirmation confirms the reservations the user has made. The confirmation does not contain goods or services related to the reservation for subsequent selection by the user. As recited in claims 1, 7 and 20, the system and method of the present invention sends a confirmation to the

user which contains options to choose additional goods or services, provided by the system or method, relating to the goods or services addressed in the users already completed reservation.

Since the user has already committed to a reservation, there is a higher likelihood of the user selecting one or more of the additional goods or services recommended in the confirmation since these additional goods or services relate to the confirmed reservation.

Furthermore, the system of the present invention need not be apparent to the user. The user can make a reservation with a company or service, and the system of the present invention will search for the related services from its business partners, and attach them the confirmation for the completed reservation. The user need not know at all that there is a system in place.

Claims 7 and 20 have been amended to recite that the searching step is automatic. These searching steps are not performed by the user, but rather by the processing system. The results are presented to the user in the confirmation, but user does not see how these results are developed. On the other hand, DeLorme contemplates that the user will research all aspects of their travel, and only after finishing this research will they make a reservation of the goods and services they have selected. DeLorme does not contemplate presenting further additional service or goods in a confirmation.

Claim 6 recites that the confirmation is a letter. The Office Action relies on column 6, lines 41-46, and col. 7, lines 15-18 for teaching this feature. Applicant respectfully disagrees. The portion of column 6 relied on does not teach sending a confirmation by letter, but rather teaches merely printing out the confirmation on a printer. Similarly column 15 teaches away from sending confirmations by letter stating: "Nor is the trip planner limited to a mail delay (such as when ordering tickets by telephone) or tedious price checking with an unmanageable number of ticketing agents. Rather, consumers and providers are saved the duplication and inconvenience of printing, issuing, distributing, presenting, and processing any separate reservation requests or paper documents." Thus, according to the DeLorme patent, the system does not suffer the drawbacks of confirmation by letter.

With regard to claim 12, applicant submits, as discussed previously, DeLorme does not teach sending a confirmation with additional goods or services for subsequent selection by the user and therefore DeLorme does not teach sending confirmations of the subsequent reservation of the additional goods or services.

Based on the foregoing amendments and comments favorable reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-12, 14, and 16-19 is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, Claims 13, 15, and 20-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLorme et al. and further in view of Terry. Terry is directed to the conversion of Queries to Monotonically increasing incremental form to continuously query an append only database.

As is the case with DeLorme, Terry does not teach or suggest sending a confirmation to the user, containing options to choose additional goods or services, provided by the system or method, which relate to the goods or services purchased in the users already completed reservation. Therefore, Applicant submits that Claims 13, 15, and 20-23 would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention in view of DeLorme and Terry, and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

All rejections having been addressed, Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Submitted herewith is a petition for a three month extension of time. Applicant hereby petitions for extensions and you are authorized to charge any other fees required to maintain the pendency of this case, except for the Issue Fee, and such fee is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0733.

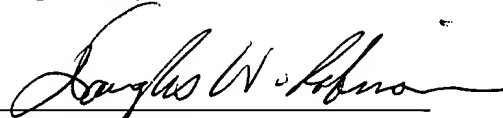
If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application on the next Office Action and feels that an interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issue, the Examiner

Serial No. 09/727,708
Amendment dated September 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 12, 2003

PATENT

is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the purpose of arranging such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
Douglas W. Robinson
Registration No. 32,751

DWR/jlg

Banner & Witcoff, LTD
1001 G Street, N.W.
11th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20001-4597
Phone: (202) 824-3000
Fax: (202) 824-3100

Date: September 12, 2003